



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

3470

Cuba

~~SECRET~~

May 25, 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ARTHUR SCHLESINGER, JR.
THE WHITE HOUSE

5/26

Through: Mr. McGeorge Bundy

Subject: Stratovision - TV Broadcasts
to Cuba from Aircraft.

I enclose a memorandum by the Bureau of Inter-American Affairs in reply to your memorandum of May 2 to Assistant Secretary Martin requesting his views on the Stratovision project. Mr. Martin recommends against the United States Navy's proposal for TV broadcasts to Cuba from aircraft, primarily on the grounds that it would be construed as violating United States treaty commitments.

The Navy proposal is returned herewith.

/s/ E. S. Little

William H. Brubeck
Executive Secretary

Enclosures:

Memorandum
Navy proposal.

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DEPT.
E. O. 11652, SEC

State Dept. NLC-73-30
BY SKF NARS, 8/23/77

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Subject: Stratovision - TV Broadcasts to Cuba from Aircraft.

The Stratovision proposal was originally considered about two years ago. Despite its appeal as a means of reaching the Cuban people by TV, Fidel Castro's most effective medium in getting to them, it was not adopted at that time, because these broadcasts would probably be construed as violating United States treaty commitments, could be easily jammed, and would expose United States TV and radio stations to retaliatory measures.

The United States and its neighboring countries, such as Cuba, Mexico, and Canada, are all parties to various international telecommunications conventions and annexed radio regulations which contain general prohibitions against broadcasts employing power exceeding that necessary for effective national services within the frontiers of the country concerned. The Navy proposal would raise serious legal questions as to our compliance with our obligations under these conventions and regulations.

Since the proposal was last considered, Stratovision has been developed more effectively in some midwestern states, bringing educational TV to wide areas not accessible to ground stations. On the other hand, police state controls in Cuba have been tightened to the point where we understand that it is now more dangerous to listen to Voice of America broadcasts than formerly. Watching television programs would be still more hazardous.

All things considered, the factors militating against Stratovision 2 years ago still apply, and are reinforced by the additional danger for potential viewers today. The only new factor in its favor is Stratovision's increased effectiveness, but this is not a weighty enough consideration to warrant incurring charges of violating treaty commitments. I would therefore recommend against the proposal at the present time.

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Edwin M. Martin
Assistant Secretary

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E. O. 11652, SEC. 3(E), 5(D), 3(E) AND 11

State Dept. NUK-73-30

BY SKF NARS, DATE 8/25/77

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